



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
SUPERFUND SITE STRATEGY RECOMMENDATION - REGION 06



Site Name: Blue Peak Mine - NM0085

CERCLIS ID#: NMD981600489

Alias Site Name: Garcia No. 1-5, Red Top No. 1-10, Section 24

Address: Latitude 35 degrees 20'28.77" Longitude 107 degrees 50'41.92"



648528

City/County or Parish/State/Zip: McKinley County, New Mexico

Report Type: Pre-CERCLIS Screening

Date: 09/10/09

Author: NMED

RECOMMENDATION:

<input type="checkbox"/> 1. No Further Remedial Action Planned Under Superfund (NFRAP)	<input type="checkbox"/> 2. Further Investigation Needed Under Superfund <table border="0"><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> PA</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> HRS</td><td>Priority: <input type="checkbox"/> High</td></tr><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> SI</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> RI/FS</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> Low</td></tr><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> ESI</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> RA</td><td></td></tr><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> Other:</td><td colspan="2"></td></tr></table>	<input type="checkbox"/> PA	<input type="checkbox"/> HRS	Priority: <input type="checkbox"/> High	<input type="checkbox"/> SI	<input type="checkbox"/> RI/FS	<input type="checkbox"/> Low	<input type="checkbox"/> ESI	<input type="checkbox"/> RA		<input type="checkbox"/> Other:		
<input type="checkbox"/> PA	<input type="checkbox"/> HRS	Priority: <input type="checkbox"/> High											
<input type="checkbox"/> SI	<input type="checkbox"/> RI/FS	<input type="checkbox"/> Low											
<input type="checkbox"/> ESI	<input type="checkbox"/> RA												
<input type="checkbox"/> Other:													
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3. Action Deferred to: <input type="checkbox"/> RCRA <input type="checkbox"/> NRC <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BLM													
<input type="checkbox"/> 4. Site Being Addressed Under the State Voluntary Cleanup Program (VCP): <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No													

NOTIFY AUTHORITY:

<input type="checkbox"/> Removal	<input type="checkbox"/> RCRA	<input type="checkbox"/> TSCA	<input type="checkbox"/> CAA	<input type="checkbox"/> SMCRA
<input type="checkbox"/> Remedial	<input type="checkbox"/> State/Tribe	<input type="checkbox"/> NPDES	<input type="checkbox"/> NRC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resource Trustee: <u>BLM</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> CERCLA Enforcement	<input type="checkbox"/> Federal Facility	<input type="checkbox"/> UIC	<input type="checkbox"/> SPCC	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
SEND SSSR COPIES TO: <input type="checkbox"/> 6SF-AC <input type="checkbox"/> 6WQ-SP <input type="checkbox"/> ATSDR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Agency <input type="checkbox"/> Tribal Agency				

DISCUSSION:

The New Mexico Energy Minerals and Natural Resources Department, Mine and Minerals Division (MMD) conducted a site assessment on December 6, 2007, and again on January 25, 2008 at the Blue Peak Mine site. The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) conducted a site assessment on June 3, 2009. The mine operated as a dry mine. MMD measured maximum gamma radiation readings of 486 uR/hr at waste piles during the 2007 site visit, however, readings taken in 2008 did not exceed 140 uR/hr. NMED observed one partially closed mine adit, one open adit, and an open shaft on the mesa top which reportedly connects to the mine tunnels. There were a few distinct waste piles that appear to have been contoured to minimize erosion, and some remaining waste rock had a maximum gamma radiation reading of 679 counts per second. There are several residences less than three miles of the mine site, and the closest well is an irrigation well less than one and one half one mile from the mine site with a total uranium concentration of 48.2 ug/l. The land surface and mineral rights are held by the Bureau of Land Management.

NMED recommended that action be taken at the site to remove waste piles with elevated radioactivity and to seal open adits and to plug the open shaft. NMED also recommended that the mine site be further assessed under CERCLA to characterize the extent of site-derived waste dispersion along the drainages and impacts to groundwater.

In October 2011, EPA conducted an aerial radiological survey in the Poison Canyon area of the Ambrosia Lake sub-district by using the Airborne Spectral Photometric Environmental Collection Technology (ASPECT). The Blue Peak Mine was included in the ASPECT survey. The gamma radiation readings at the Blue Peak Mine site were one to two times

statistically greater than background readings in the area.

Pursuant to the Memorandum of Understanding between EPA and the New Mexico State Office of the Bureau of Land Management, August 2011, the Blue Peak Mine will be addressed by the Bureau of Land Management.

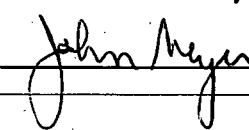
APPROVALS:

Report Reviewed by: Lisa Marie Price
(Site Assessment Manager)

Signature: 

Date: 11/25/11

Disposition
Approved by: John Meyer
(Section Chief 6SF-TR)

Signature: 

Date: 11/29/11